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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10/24/01

Applicants:

Takahiko SAITO et al.

Serial No.:

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Examiner :

D.M. Gray

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents BOX PATENT APPLICATION Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, which is a division under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior application Serial No. 09/799699 filed March 7, 2001, which is a division of application Serial No. 09/631, 559 filed August 3, 2000 which is a division of application Serial No. 09/404,708 filed September 23, 1999, which is a division of Serial No. 09/293,003 filed April 16, 1999, which is a division of Serial No. 09/175,123 filed October 19, 1998,